

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

v.

JOSH S. VERNE,

Defendant.

Civil Action No.: 2:23-CV-02259

DEFENDANT’S STATUS REPORT

On February 9, 2024, the Court entered an Order staying this action pending the resolution of the Department of Justice’s parallel criminal investigation and directing the defendant to provide a status report every six months. (ECF 15).

Since the last status report, the DOJ case has proceeded. Mr. Verne has agreed to change his plea to guilty and a hearing is scheduled for March 3, 2025.

In this action, the SEC and Mr. Verne have begun settlement discussions. The parties expect to be in a position to either reach a settlement, or request that the stay be lifted to proceed with the litigation, prior to the date for the next status report in six months.

Dated: February 19, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Joseph C. Kohn

Joseph C. Kohn (36565)

Elias A. Kohn (327743)

Zahra R. Dean

KOHN, SWIFT & GRAF, P.C.

1600 Market Street, Suite 2500

Philadelphia, PA 19103

(215) 238-1700

jkohn@koh Swift.com

ekohn@koh Swift.com

zdean@koh Swift.com

Attorneys for Defendant

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

v.

JOSH S. VERNE,

Defendant.

Civil Action No.: 2:23-CV-02259

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Joseph C. Kohn hereby certify that on February 19, 2025, the foregoing Defendant's Status Report was filed electronically with the Court's ECF system, which sends electronic notice to counsel of record for all parties.

/s/ Joseph C. Kohn

Joseph C. Kohn